

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 07444 260708Z

16

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25 NEA-14

DRC-01 /142 W

----- 021388

O P 260605Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 949

DOD IMMEDIATE

JCRC NKP IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO JCS PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

AMCONSUL UDORN PRIORITY

USDEL FPJMT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7444

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF POW/MIA GROUP TO VIENTIANE

REF: STATE 187412 (NOTAL)

STATE 197377

1. POW/MIA FAMILY GROUP CONSISTING OF: MR. SALVATORE  
MASCARI, MRS. DOROTHY FITTON, MRS. MARGARET HOPPER, MRS.  
MARY P. RAY, MR. GEORGE SHINE, MRS. FARRELL SULLIVAN  
AND MRS. ROBERT STANDERWICK ARRIVED IN VIENTIANE ON  
SEPTEMBER 23 AS SCHEDULED. UPON THEIR ARRIVAL GROUP  
MADE IT EXPLICITLY CLEAR THAT PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THEIR  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 07444 260708Z

VISIT WAS TO "SEE THE RECORDS" OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

WHO ARE MISSING IN ACTION. EMBOFF CONTACTED JCRC IN NKP TO REQUEST THAT FILES IN QUESTION BE POSITIONED IN UDORN SO THAT COL EDWARD VAUGHN COULD PICK THEM UP ON HIS RETURN FLIGHT TO VIENTIANE ON SEPTEMBER 24.. (COL. VAUGHN HAD BEEN AN ESCORT OFFICER FOR POW EMMET KAY WHO WAS RELEASED IN VIENTIANE ON SEPTEMBER 18; HE RETURNED TO POST VIA BANGKOK/UDORN ON SEPTEMBER 25.)

2. ON SEPTEMBER 24 AND 25 THE EMBASSY AND DATT PROVIDED THE GROUP WITH BRIEFINGS ON THE MIA/POW QUESTION AS IT RELATES TO LAOS. SINCE ONLY TWO OF THE SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAD LOST MEN IN LAOS, THERE WAS A PERSISTENT EFFORT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION HERE ON MATTERS RELATING TO SITUATION IN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH WAS NOT WITHIN OUR PURVIEW.

3. IN ADDITION TO BRIEFINGS PROVIDED BY AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY OFFICERS AND DATT, THE GROUP MET WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY, A MEMBER OF THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE ACCORDS (JCCIA) FROM THE VIENTIANE SIDE, AN INDIAN MEMBER OF THE ICC/LAOS, THE ICRC DELEGATE TO LAOS, AS WELL AS SOCIALLY WITH WIDE RANGE OF OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE AMERICANS.

4. THE VISIT SOURED NOTICEABLY, HOWEVER, WHEN UNCLASSIFIED JCRC FILES WERE DELIVERED TO THE FAMILY MEMBERS AND DISCUSSED WITH THEM ON SEPTEMBER 25. THE GROUP FOUND THE FILES TOTALLY INADEQUATE AND INDICATED THAT THEY HAD ACCESS IN THE PAST TO MORE COMPREHENSIVE FILES, WHICH INCLUDED CLASSIFIED DATA. SOME FILES ONLY CONTAINED A PAGE OR TWO OF INFORMATION. IN THE CASE OF THE GROUP LEADER, MASCARI, HIS SON'S FILE CONTAINED LESS INFORMATION THAN IT DID LAST YEAR AND, AS HE NOTED, "LAST YEAR I WAS SATISFIED, THIS YEAR I AM NOT." GROUP BECAME VISIBLY IRRITATED AND HOSTILE. THEY REQUESTED IMMEDIATE TRANSPORTATION TO NKP TO MEET WITH OFFICERS THERE TO SEE "THE FILES", INCLUDING MEDICAL AND DENTAL RECORDS, AND TO DISCUSS FACTS RELATING TO THEIR RELATIVES' STATUS WITH AN OFFICER FROM THE SERVICE CONCERNED. THEY ALSO INTEND TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH GENERAL ULATOSKI.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 07444 260708Z

THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN NKP AT 1500 HOURS.

5. JCRC/NKP, AMEMBASSIES SAIGON, PHNOM PENH AND BANGKOK SHOULD BE ALERT TO THE FACT THAT THE GROUP IS DISGRUNTLED AND HOSTILE AS IT DEPARTS VIENTIANE ALTHOUGH GRATEFUL FOR HOSPITALITY AND COURTESIES RECEIVED HERE. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR FUTURE PLANS MAY BE HELPFUL. THE ENTIRE GROUP INTENDS TO VISIT

SAIGON. MRS. HOPPER HAS EXPRESSED HER INTENTION TO RETRACE THE STEPS OF HER SON THROUGH THE DELTA; SHE HAS ALSO STATED THAT SHE WILL BE APPLYING FOR A CAMBODIAN VISA SO THAT SHE CAN VISIT PHNOM PENH. MRS. FITTON, WHO IS ELDERLY AND SUFFERING FROM A SEVERE KIDNEY CONDITION, HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT SHE DESPERATELY WANTS TO OBTAIN A VISA TO VISIT NORTH VIETNAM; SHE WAS REFUSED SUCH A VISA BY THE DRV EMBASSY HERE. SHE IS LIKELY TO ASK CONSULAR OFFICERS IN SAIGON TO HAVE THE RESTRICTION OF TRAVEL TO NORTH VIETNAM NOTATION IN HER PASSPORT STRICKEN IN THE MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT THIS MIGHT INCREASE HER CHANCES OF OBTAINING A DRV VISA. WE INFORMED MRS. FITTON THAT IF SHE RECEIVED DRV VISA TO TRAVEL TO NORTH VIETNAM, AN AMERICAN EMBASSY WOULD BE WILLING TO SUBMIT HER REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF THE NORTH VIETNAM TRAVEL RESTRICTION TO THE DEPARTMENT AND WOULD AMEND HER PASSPORT, ASSUMING THE DEPARTMENT APPROVED HER REQUEST.

6. MRS. ROBERT (CAROL) STANDERWICK HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT SHE INTENDS TO RETURN TO VIENTIANE. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF AMEMBASSY SAIGON WOULD NOTIFY US OF HER TRAVEL PLANS WHEN THEY BECOME FIRM.  
WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POW, MIA, ITINERARY, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** powellba2  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974VIENTI07444  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740271-0374  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t1974099/aaaaahws.tel  
**Line Count:** 139  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION DPW  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 187412 (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** powellba2  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 JUN 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <31 JUL 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <21 JUN 2005 by blochd0>; APPROVED <21 JUN 2005 by powellba2>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT OF POW/MIA GROUP TO VIENTIANE  
**TAGS:** MOPS, LA, US, (MASCARI, SAL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005